



**CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
CARING FOR CONNECTICUT'S FAMILIES

Statement in Support of
House Bill 6343 – An Act Concerning Cooperative Health Care Arrangements
Judiciary Committee
March 4, 2011

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of our nearly 600 Family Physicians members in strong support of House Bill 6343 – An Act Concerning Cooperative Health Care Arrangements. The Family Physicians of Connecticut strongly encourages this Committee to enact legislation during the 2011 legislative session that would add some fairness to the current “all or nothing” contracts that physicians have to negotiate with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

As physicians we are committed to providing the highest quality healthcare to our patients. Unfortunately, caring for our patients no longer just requires a physician’s time to address health concerns. Instead, we must negotiate contracts with MCO’s, multibillion-dollar companies, that have dozens of contract attorneys on their side. In contrast, we are usually small practices, sometimes solo physicians who need to hire an attorney, but usually attempt to negotiate these contracts ourselves. Some physicians utilize their local Physician-Hospital Organization (PHO) or Independent Practice Associations (IPA) to negotiate for them. Unfortunately, some of these organizations are not experienced enough to negotiate on their own

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Current anti-trust laws that prevent physicians from entering into “cooperative agreements” must be changed. Such agreements would allow physicians to join together in order to provide health care services, negotiate pricing, share patients, personnel, support services, laboratory facilities and/or procedures. As a result physicians would be able to improve quality of care, help to contain costs, and improve access to health care especially in rural areas. The only way to combat unfair contract provisions and negotiate with an MCO is through the formation of a cooperative health care arrangement. Without changes to current antitrust laws, MCOs will be able to continue dictating the terms and conditions they offer physicians

We must level the playing field between physicians and MCOs in order to guarantee that our patients are able to receive the health care they deserve. We hope to be able to work together with this Committee in order to bring fairness in contracting between Managed Care Organizations and physicians.

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